

JAN 12 1925

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"THE REDEEMING SIN"

Author: L. V. Jefferson

Director: J. Stuart Blackton

Seven Reels: ~~Melodrama~~

Adapted from L.V. JEFFERSON'S
Story by MARIAN CONSTANCE

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The den of Mere Michi in the underworld of Paris is frequented by thieves. Leader among them is Lupin, an Apache, who is in love with Joan, a waif. Lupin sees no opposition in his wooing of Joan, but the sordid surroundings and coarse behavior of the thieves all tend to make Joan disgusted with the prospects of living that sort of life all the time. She repulses the advances of Lupin and tells him that he will see her no more.

Joan goes to the Cafe of the Blue Rabbit, whose proprietor, Papa Chuchu, is interested in Joan. Chuchu and the customers persuade Joan to forget her sorrow and dance for them -- which she does. Girls in the place provide veils and Papa Chuchu gives her a cabbage head -- the props necessary in her interpretation of Salome.

To the cafe come Paul De Gafilet and his roistering companions. They are making a night of it. Paul sees the dance, and becoming interested in Joan speaks to her. To Joan the sight of the aristocrat is a glimpse of another world. Lupin has followed, however, and when he threatens the life of Paul, Joan interferes, sending both of them to their respective haunts. Lupin, however, tells Joan that he will take her home with him that very night -- and waits outside. Papa Chuchu offers Joan refuge in the little room where his daughter had died -- a room which he had kept sacred to her memory. Joan, disgusted with herself in such a virgin and spotless room, refuses the offer -- although Chuchu tells her that the key and the room are always at her disposal. Joan spends the night on a settee in the drinking room.

The Marquise De Gafilet, Paul's mother, worries over the dissipations of her son, and persuades him to study art under Pierre Du Vigne, a noted sculptor. Here Paul makes his home and here his sister Jetta visits him and teases him about his progress. Joan, wandering through the streets, sees Paul bidding goodbye to his sister. She speaks to him and he remembers her -- with sentimental interest. She asks him why she cannot become a lady like the one who just left, and he makes a list of the five essentials -- toothbrush, soap, sponge, brush and nail-file.

Using these and replenishing her wardrobe according to what she believes a la mode, Joan appears at the cafe, dressed differently. Lupin and Chuchu see her. She goes to the room, deeming herself clean enough to occupy it. Paul enters the cafe, and Lupin, seeing him, threatens violence, and waits outside to use his knife. Joan sits down with Paul, shows him what effect his advice had and is pleased at his compliments.

Learning that Lupin threatens outside, Joan accompanies Paul to his studio, thwarting Lupin. In the studio, sentiment is in the air, and Paul assures Joan that he has no sweetheart -- unless perhaps her.

Joan sees a statue that the Marquise is to give to her church -- together with a diadem of jewels -- and also learns that the famous De Gafilet pearls are to be a gift to the statue at a special ceremony. She obtains a card which will admit her. On her way out, she steals a book belonging to Paul. Lu-

pin, waiting outside, accosts her but she pretends friendship until the danger to Paul is averted. Then she heaps her scathing denunciations on Lupin.

Paul has told her that the door to his studio would always be open. Brooding over the theft of the book, she goes to return it and beg forgiveness. She arrives to find Jetta at the studio, and misinterpreting the attitude of the brother and sister, she hurls the book through the window, tosses down her fineries and goes back to the Mere Michi's den in a fever of jealousy. She tells the gang of the jewels. Lupin says he will steal her the pearls -- and she asks him to kill Paul for her. A plot is connived, as one of the band knows a secret opening into the cellars of the church through its cellars.

Joan attends the ceremony accompanied by Papa Chuchu. At first the significance of the service and the statue of the Madonna have no effect upon her. Then the spiritual influence seeps into her soul and she is suddenly aghast at the great sacrilege she has planned. Paul is there with his mother and sister -- and here Joan learns for the first time that Jetta is not a sweetheart -- but a sister. Agonized at what she has done, she leaves the church to stop Lupin. Lupin, Mere Michi and others, however, have already made their way into the cellar of the church, waiting for the service to end before despoiling the statue. Mere Michi denounces Joan as a traitor for not giving the signal. As Lupin and the others go up to the church, Joan arrives and is met by Mere Michi, who, after a fight, bests her and leaves her unconscious. Lupin wounds Paul and steals the crown and the pearls. He also takes Joan back to the den where she is locked up. Lupin gives her the pearls, but she suffers so from the sacrilege that she hands them back. He says that he killed Paul -- which further numbs her. Lupin and Mere Michi allow her to leave -- and she seeks refuge in the little room in the cafe.

Lupin wonders what he has done. He goes to the cafe after several days and persuades Joan to speak to him. He offers to undo what he has done. He gets from her an idea of what he has done, and, loving her, he returns to the den and recovers the jewels. Mere Michi bars his exit and he has to fight his way through. The band is aroused and they pursue him into the sewers. Another thief takes the jewels from him, and in the fight, stabs Lupin, before the latter kills him.

Joan has gone to the church to pray for forgiveness. She finds there Paul, whose wound was not serious. Paul tells Joan that he loves her and wants to marry her. Lupin, badly wounded, enters the church from the cellar, and with difficulty, tries to replace the jewels. Joan and Paul watch, and Joan, now realizing that it is Lupin and not Paul that she loves, goes to him. She tells Lupin that she has been blind -- that she loves him. Paul withdraws, leaving the couple happy before the statue of the Madonna.

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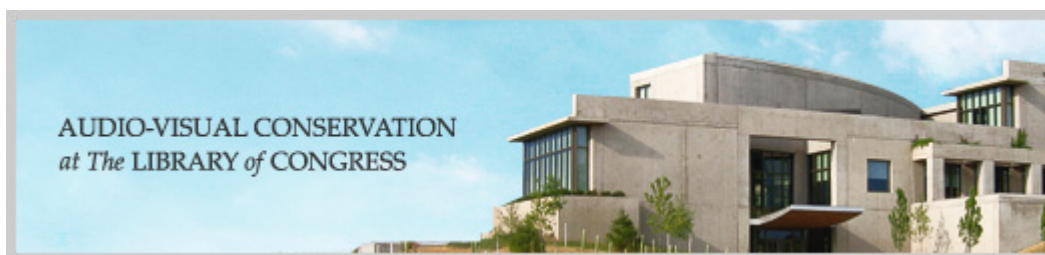
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